



NEWS from the City of Greenville
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**Vice Mayor Pro Tem Diane Smock to Attend
Cities Supporting Parents of Young Children Leadership Academy**

GREENVILLE, SC... Council Member C. Diane Smock was one of 28 national municipal leaders selected to attend the *Cities Supporting Parents of Young Children Leadership Academy* sponsored by the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute). The Academy will be held in Washington D.C. from March 31 through April 1, 2005 and will cover a wide variety of topics including connecting families to community resources, promoting parent education and leadership, communication campaigns and outreach efforts and other vital ways to support parents raising young children.

As a child's primary nurturer and first teacher, parents play a critical role in the successful development of young children. Yet many parents lack the information, supports, training, and opportunities to do all that they can – at home and in their communities – to foster early childhood success. The YEF Institute's *Cities Supporting Parents of Young Children Leadership Academy* will provide intensive training and networking opportunities to build municipal capacity to support parents of young children (ages birth through five).

Last year, the City of Greenville was chosen to participate in the *Freddie Mac Foundation Early Childhood Challenge* which called for the creation of a multi-phase strategy to improve the quality of life for young children. City Council responded to the challenge and enacted an early childhood strategy designed to encourage collaboration, partnerships and support for early childhood educational resources in our community.

And with a look to the future, City Council recently passed a resolution to declare affordable, quality child care a priority in the City of Greenville to meet growing demands generated by new residential and high tech industries, such as the International Center for Automotive Research now under development in the City of Greenville. Ms. Smock explains, "The City of Greenville's economic development strategies must include a commitment to quality, early childhood education. Serving our youngest citizens will help ensure a better future for them, for their families and for our community."

Throughout 2005, the YEF Institute will continue to provide municipal leaders with information, technical assistance, peer networking opportunities, and other resources to help them develop initiatives to parent support initiatives in their communities.

The National League of Cities is the largest national organization for American cities. NLC serves as a resource and advocate for 18,000 cities, towns and villages of all sizes, from New York City to Bee Cave, Texas, which collectively serve 225 million people. Visit www.nlc.org.

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